



# Team Selection Procedures

ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | PARACLIMBING

## **USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures**

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*This Team Selection Procedures document shall remain in effect until a subsequent version has been published.*

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*Any amendments to these rules will be published on the USA Climbing website [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.*

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*This Team Selection Procedures document is subject to approval by the Board of Directors of USA Climbing in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. In the event of any conflict between USA Climbing's Bylaws and this document, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control.*

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## Introduction

*This Introduction and Significant Changes sections are not binding rules. Only the rules themselves, beginning with the Order of Rule Precedence and Glossary sections, shall govern. USA Climbing strongly recommends that members, host facilities, and other interested parties review the actual text of the Team Selection Procedure rules themselves.*

The USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document was introduced in 2022 as part of an effort to align with other USOPC National Governing Bodies as well as other climbing National Federations by separating the Team Selection Procedures from the Rulebook. By decoupling Team Selection Procedures updates from the schedule of Rulebook updates, USA Climbing can provide clearer communication about the (Elite) National Championships and the National Team Trials, in addition to the pathways and qualifications for US citizen (ICE) athletes to represent the US in international competitions.

## Highlighted Changes from 20241010 Version

### **Addition of “Legacy” Eligibility to the National Championship**

- Recognizing exceptional achievement in international competitions, USA Climbing National Championship eligibility in section 3.2.3 is granted to past Olympians in climbing events as well as those who advanced to the final round in any past IFSC World Cup or World Championship.

### **National Team Trials Rules**

- The 2025 National Team Trials (NTT) shall use amended rules as set forth in an NTT Rules Addendum published by USA Climbing, reflecting several changes in the 2025 IFSC rules.

### **Other Changes**

- Sections that no longer apply (e.g., IFSC Name-Eligible, 2024 NCH) have been removed.

# General Introduction to the Team Selection Procedures document

## IFSC World Rankings

Portions of the USA Climbing Team Selection process utilize the IFSC's Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR), which includes six rankings (three for each gender category: one for each of Lead, Boulder, and Speed) as published at <https://www.ifsc-climbing.org/index.php/world-competition/ranking>. The following uses of the CUWR are determined by the IFSC and are subject to IFSC changes:

- Year-end CUWR top-40 athletes may contribute to their National Federation's quota (e.g. USA Climbing's quota) for the following year.
- Competition-time CUWR is used for the IFSC Boulder Qualification seeding / starting order.

## International Event Eligibility & Registration Quotas

For each National Federation (NF) like USA Climbing, IFSC separately grants a number of quota to that NF. (Each NF determines how to allocate that quota to their athletes.)

For 2025, NFs are expected to be granted NF WC quota as follows:

- For each WC, a base of 2 quota, plus an additional 1 quota for each NF competitor in the end-of-2024 CUWR 1<sup>st</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup> range, up to 4 additional quota. (i.e. 2 to 6 quota before host quota.) The expectation is that there will be an additional 4 quota for WCs held within the NFs country.

## National Team

After one Competition Start allocated to Team Selection Discretion, National Team members receive first priority for Competition Starts, in order of rank within the team.

Athletes with exceptional CUWR ranking at the end of the prior calendar year are preselected for the relevant National Team(s), as may certain Olympic athletes. Then, those ranked top-5 (or in some years top-2) in the relevant National Team Ranking will also be part of National Team, which could result in a National Team having more than 5 athletes. See section 2.2 for details. (The NTR rank and NT selection for Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing teams are slightly different than for Elite.)

## National Development Team

National Development Team are those eligible for Competition Starts when quota is available. Typically, those athletes ranked up to 10<sup>th</sup> in the National Team Ranking are National Development Team if they are not on the National Team.

The default method and order of allocation of Competition starts is by highest ranked, though the NF quota allocation method and which athletes are National Development Team are both subject to USA Climbing's Team Selection Discretion.

## Rankings

There are two types of Rankings, both of which are further described in this Introduction section:

- National Team Rankings – for use as selection/order criteria for National Teams and National Development Teams, which in turn affect international Competition Starts.
- NCH Eligibility Rankings – for use in determining eligibility for the (Elite) National Championships (and for seeding order at Boulder NCH)

## Allocation of USA Climbing Registration Quota to Competition Starts

IFSC Name-eligible athletes (e.g., possibly Pan-American Champions name-eligible at the following World Championship) are not considered when determining Competition Start allocation to competitions, as IFSC grants them eligibility directly – they do not “count against” the NF's registration quota.

The allocation of US quota for Lead, Boulder, and Speed competitions will generally first be to the National Team in the Discipline.

If quota remains or becomes available, remaining Competition Starts will be distributed to the USA Climbing National Development Team athletes in order of their National Team Ranking, with USA

Climbing having the ultimate discretion regarding such distribution, as well as which athletes are National Development Team.

### Team Selection Discretion

The USA Climbing High Performance staff or USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee may submit a proposal to alter, for example, the list of athletes that are National Development Team and/or the order and priority of NF quota distribution to National Development Team athletes. This proposal requires approval by the Team Selection Committee and the USA Climbing CEO.

### Team Selection Events

The selection for most National Team members and the National Development Team uses a National Team Ranking – a points-based system where athletes receive points at the National Championship and the National Team Trials. Some athletes may also receive bonus points.

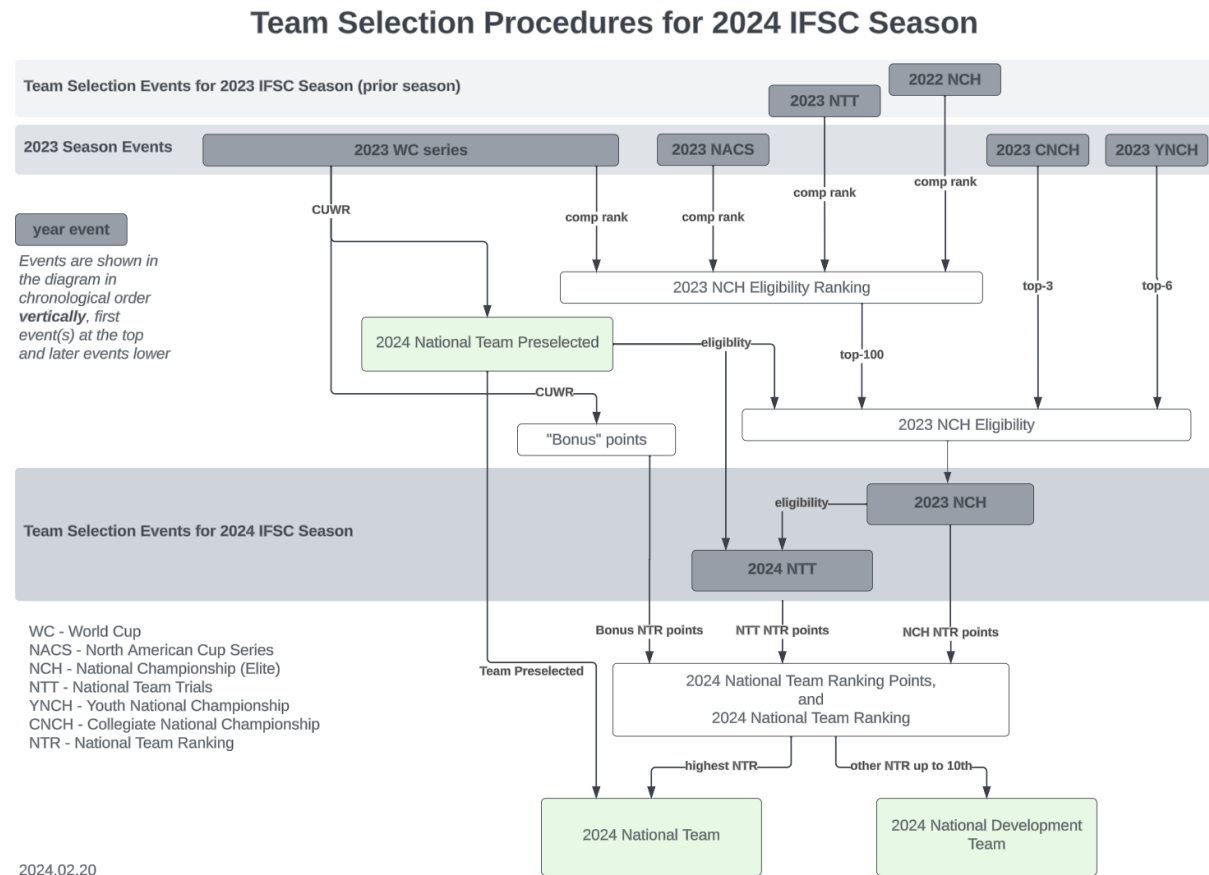
Both the National Championship and the National Team Trials are invitation-only events.

National Championship eligibility is achieved by way of:

- NCH Eligibility Ranking points earned at WCs, WCH, PAC, the North American Cup Series, the prior year's National Championship and the prior year's National Team Trials
- Exceptional performance at Youth & Collegiate National Championships.

National Team Trials eligibility is by way of exceptional performance at the National Championship, being Team Preselected, or being awarded National Team Ranking Bonus points.

### Team Selection Diagram Example from the 2024 IFSC Season



## **National Team Ranking Points**

For each of Lead, Boulder, and Speed, the National Team Ranking points are:

National Team Ranking points = National Championship points + NTT points + Bonus points

At the conclusion of each of the National Championship and the National Team Trials, each US citizen (ICE) athlete is ranked against other US citizen (ICE) athletes who are not Team Preselected, and this rank is used to award them National Team Ranking points. Team Preselected are not listed in the National Team Ranking.

National Team Ranking bonus points are awarded to those with high CUWR rank, or to select athletes who are involved in the Olympic qualification system.

## **NCH Eligibility Ranking**

The (Elite) National Championship requires a competitor to meet at least one eligibility criterion, one of which is a high enough rank in the NCH Eligibility Ranking. This NCH Eligibility Ranking is a ranking that is calculated using a competitor's best two (2) of certain competitions in the prior year.

The NCH Eligibility Ranking considers the prior year's National Championship, and these events since that National Championship: National Team Trials, World Cups, World Championships, Pan-American Championships, and North American Cup Series. Each of those events is weighted to account for both the status of the event and typical strength of competitive field. (Non-US citizens (NTI) are eligible to gain NCH Eligibility Ranking points by way of a North American Cup Series event.)

There are additional eligibility criteria that may award a competitor eligibility to the National Championship, including: being Team Preselected, highly ranked performance in the prior IFSC season; legacy Olympians or IFSC WC/WCH Finalists, or being highly ranked in the Youth or Collegiate National Team Rankings.

## **National Team Trials Eligibility**

Eligibility to the National Team Trials is achieved by meeting any of the following:

- Top ranked in Lead, Boulder, or Speed, as relevant, at the National Championship
- Having National Team Ranking Bonus points
- Being Team Preselected (e.g., for training purposes)

For Speed, the athlete must further have achieved a specified minimum benchmark time to be eligible for the National Team Trials.

## **Team Selection Event Formats**

The National Championship will include three separate Disciplines, as it has been in recent history.

The National Team Trials format will also include three separate Disciplines.

Competitors who are Team Preselected are eligible to participate in the National Championship and National Team Trial events, as the events may provide valuable opportunities for them to train and prepare for the IFSC season. However, to minimize the impact their attendance may have on those not Team Preselected, the presence or absence of any Team Preselected competitor will:

- not affect the number of those not Team Preselected who advance to the Semi-Final and Final rounds in Boulder or Lead at the NTT, and
- not affect the National Team Ranking Points awarded to those not Team Preselected.

## **Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing**

Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing National Team Rankings reflect the results of only one competition: their respective National Championship.



## Effective Date

This Team Selection Procedures document shall be effective upon publication.

## Order of Rule Precedence

In the event and to the extent any rules contained in this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document address the same or substantially the same subject matter but do not actually conflict, the more recently added provisions or amendments shall be deemed to have superseded earlier provisions.

Any inconsistency between this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document and the USA Climbing Rulebook (and amendments) shall be resolved by giving precedence to this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document on matters of:

- a) The (Elite) National Championship and National Team Trials events; and
- b) Ranking Points, Rankings, National Teams; and
- c) International Competition Starts (priority, order, and process),

and otherwise giving precedence to the USA Climbing Rulebook.

## Glossary

### 1. The following acronyms shall apply throughout this document:

**CNCH** is USA Climbing Collegiate National Championship;  
**NACS** is North American Cup Series;  
**NCH** is USA Climbing (Elite) National Championship;  
**NTR** is National Team Ranking;  
**NTT** is USA Climbing National Team Trials;  
**PACH** is Pan-American Championship;  
**PNCH** is Paraclimbing National Championship  
**WC** is IFSC World Cup;  
**WCH** is IFSC World Championship;  
**YNCH** is USA Climbing Youth National Championship;  
**YWCH** is IFSC Youth World Championship.

### 2. In addition to the terms & definitions in the USA Climbing Rulebook Glossary, the following definitions shall apply throughout this document:

**Boulder & Lead** means the ranking or designation corresponding to IFSC new Boulder & Lead format. (Equivalent to Boulder+Lead references in the USA Climbing Rulebook.)

**Competition Start** means a US Citizen (ICE) athlete is (to be) registered by USA Climbing to compete in an international competition.

**Continental Olympic Qualification Event (COQE)** means the Pan American IOC/IFSC Olympic Qualification System event.

**Current Youth World Champion** means a US athlete who achieved World Champion status at the most recent Youth World Championship.

**CUWR** means the IFSC Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR) at the start of the year (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>) in the year of US Team Selection.

**IFSC Name-Eligible** means a US citizen (ICE) athlete that IFSC considers eligible, by athlete name, for World Cup (WC) competitions in the upcoming season, and who achieved such pre-qualification status representing the US -- eligibility that historically has been awarded to those in the CUWR top-10 at the start of the calendar year.

**Non-US citizen (NTI)** means an athlete who meets the requirement to be classified as NTI (Not Team Eligible) in the National Team Eligibility Policy.

**Olympic Qualification Series (OQS)** means the IOC/IFSC series from which the majority of Olympic Eligibility quota will be determined.

**Olympic Team** or **US Olympic Team** means an athlete who has qualified as a US citizen (ICE) for the Sport Climbing event at the immediate next, or current, Olympic Games.

**Past Olympian** means an athlete who represented the US in Sport Climbing at the Olympics.

**Past World Cup or World Championship Finalist** means an athlete who advanced to the Final round<sup>1</sup> at an IFSC World Cup or IFSC World Championship.

**Recent National Team Member** means an athlete who in the prior twelve (12) months was a member of an (Elite) National Team.

**Speed Trial** means a USA Climbing sanctioned Speed event for the purpose of athletes running speed races on a Qualifying Standard wall in order to meet a benchmark time, the schedule and details for which should be published by USA Climbing at least 30 days prior to the Speed Trial.

**US citizen (ICE)** means an athlete who meets the requirement to be classified as ICE (International Competition Eligible) in the National Team Eligibility Policy.

# 1 General

## 1.1 General - USA Climbing

- 1.1.1 As a USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document, all references herein to National Team, National Development Team, or National Team Ranking shall be read to refer to the relevant US entity.
- 1.1.2 The procedures contained within this Team Selection Procedures document shall apply separately to each applicable Category. For example, the procedures for the Elite Series shall apply to both the female and male Categories separately.
- 1.1.3 At any given time, an athlete may be a member of more than one of the National Teams or National Development Team, but for a given Series, Category, and Discipline an athlete cannot not be on both the National Team and the National Development Team.

## 1.2 General – National Teams, National Development Team, and Competition Starts

- 1.2.1 Competition Start allocation procedures for a competition shall be understood as having a separate allocation of Competition Starts to those US Citizen (ICE) athletes that IFSC considers Name-Eligible for that competition; Competition Start allocation for US quota shall not consider those Name-Eligible athletes.
- 1.2.2 If a National Team or National Development Team member is not eligible to register for the international competition's Category for which USA Climbing has determined them qualified for, they are ineligible for an international Competition Start.  
For example, an athlete electing to compete in USA Climbing competitions in a gender category that differs from the competitor's birth certificate gender (subject to the USA Climbing rules and policies) accepts the risk of not being eligible for an international Competition Start.
- 1.2.3 Some portion of the competition's US quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive Competition Starts under these rules.

### 1.3 General - Athlete Requirements

- 1.3.1 A member of a USA Climbing National Team or National Development Team may be required to submit a signed Athlete Agreement in order to obtain support from USA Climbing with respect to an Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and/or Paraclimbing international competition and/or event, provided that the form of Athlete Agreement is on reasonable terms and has been reviewed by the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, USA Climbing's athlete representative on the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council, and the USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee.

The Athlete Agreement must be signed by the athlete and must also be signed by a parent/guardian if the athlete is under the age of eighteen (18) years. The current Athlete Agreement document is located on the National Team page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete Agreement term or condition may be reasonable even if other terms or conditions that could have been used would have likewise been reasonable.

- 1.3.2 All National Team members and National Development Team members:

- a) shall be required to have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership (or in the case of a Collegiate athlete competing in the World University Games, a Collegiate Membership), and must timely reactivate their Membership in the event their Membership expires or otherwise becomes non-active, or are otherwise; and
- b) shall be able to provide evidence of US citizenship accepted by IFSC upon request by USA Climbing; and
- c) should possess a valid (unexpired) US passport that has an expiration date a least one year after the upcoming National Championship,

where those athletes not meeting these requirements are subject to being declared ineligible for an international Competition Start.

## 1.4 General - Rankings and Ranking Points

1.4.1 Elite Rankings are determined using the corresponding Ranking Points.

Ranking	Points used
NCH Eligibility Ranking	NCH Eligibility Ranking Points
National Team Ranking	National Team Ranking Points

Table 1-1 General –Ranking Points used for each Ranking

The Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing National Team Rankings are simplified and do not use Ranking Points; the National Team Rankings are determined directly from National Championship General Rankings.

1.4.2 For each Ranking that uses the relevant Ranking Points to determine relative rank between competitors, the competitors are ranked in descending order of Ranking Points, and the following shall apply to competitors with an equal number of ranking points:

- a) In determining the ranking where any competitors have the same Ranking Points, the relative ranking of the competitors with equal Ranking Points shall be determined by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors at the competitions included in the Ranking Point system (i.e., competitor A shall be ranked higher (better) if competitor A has ranked higher than competitor B in more such competitions than competitor B ranked higher than competitor A, for such competitions where both competitor A and B competed). The application of this rule shall be weighted by each competition's first (1<sup>st</sup>) place points as set forth in the table in Rule 2.1.4, such that a head-to-head win in a competition with greater first (1<sup>st</sup>) place points shall be considered more significant than a head-to-head win in a competition with fewer (1<sup>st</sup>) place points.
- b) Where the test in (a) does not determine a unique rank, the ranking will be determined by the best ranking in any of the competitions included in the Ranking Point system, and the number of competitions where that ranking was achieved. If that does not determine a unique rank, then the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best ranking in any such competition, and the number of competitions with that ranking, and so on.

1.4.3 When awarding Ranking Points at a competition, the points awarded to tied competitors will be the average of the points for the tied rank positions, rounded down to whole numbers. (e.g., if three competitors are tied for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place, each is awarded the sum of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place points, divided by 3, rounded down.)

1.4.4 For some Speed competitions, points awarded to a competitor are those points based on their Resolved Time Rank.

Time Rank points are determined using a competitors Resolved Time Rank in the competition, which is a ranking among only US citizen (ICE) competitors and is in order of increasing Time Rank time and, within a set of competitors having the same Time Rank time, is in order of increasing (worse) General Rank.

That is, Resolved Time Rank is the same as Time Rank except that any ties in Time Rank are broken using General Rank in the competition.

## 1.5 General - Registration of Interest and Acceptance of Competition Start

This section addresses the overall process of Competition Start allocation, how an athlete's status as a National Team (NT) or National Development Team (NDT) member and their registration of interest may result in Competition Starts.

In general:

- National Team members (in the Elite Series) have priority that includes: being initially considered "interested"; first consideration regardless of any Registered Interest Deadline; and consideration for a provisionally allocated Competition Start.
- National Development Team members that register interest before the Registered Interest Deadline have priority over those who register after; among those NDT members that register interest after the deadline, their priority is ordered by time of interest registration.

The rules in this section include:

- 1.5.1 – That US Competition Starts are only allocated as below
- 1.5.2 – How the timing of an athlete's registration of interest impacts their designation as a Registered Interest Athlete and their *consideration* for a Competition Start (note: the method for an athlete to register their interest is published outside this document)
- 1.5.3 – When the allocation of Competition Starts is initiated
- 1.5.4 – What the Competition Start allocation process includes
- 1.5.5 – How Competition Starts get returned to USA Climbing due to an athlete withdrawing
- 1.5.6 – Which documentation may be required by USA Climbing
- 1.5.7 – What is published by USA Climbing
- 1.5.8 – Team Section Discretion

1.5.1 Registration through USA Climbing is the sole means of a competitor to express interest for (acceptance of) an International Competition Start from USA Climbing.

1.5.2 Regarding designating an athlete to be a "Registered Interest Athlete", an athlete (National Team member or National Development Team member) may be designated as a Registered Interest Athlete as follows:

- a) An athlete who is a National Team (NT) member:
  - i) is initially designated a NT Registered Interest Athlete (requiring no explicit registering of interest on their part) and remains so until and unless they deregister their interest; and
  - ii) who deregisters their interest, is no longer designated a Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - iii) if they subsequently reregister their interest, they are (again) designated a NT Registered Interest Athlete, regardless of the time of such reregistration of interest.
- b) An athlete who is a National Development Team (NDT) member:
  - i) is not initially designated a Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - ii) must explicitly register their interest to be designated a Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - iii) if they explicitly register their interest (or reregister their interest after deregistering their interest):
    - A) before the Registered Interest Deadline of 11:59pm MT fourteen (14) days prior to the Competition's registration deadline, are considered an NDT (Normal) Registered Interest Athlete; or
    - B) after such deadline, are considered an NDT (Late) Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - iv) who deregisters their interest, is no longer designated an NDT Registered Interest Athlete.

- c) USA Climbing will publish the method(s) for registering interest, though the method for National Team members may be different than the method for National Development Team members.
- d) Athletes who have registered their interest in a Competition, but later become unavailable, ineligible, or otherwise unable to accept a Competition Start to the Competition must contact USA Climbing via [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org) immediately in order to deregister their interest. (See 1.5.5)

1.5.3 Regarding the timing of Competition Start allocation initiation,

Competition Starts are allocated (and the provisional period as set forth in Rule 1.5.4(b) begins) immediately after one of the following initiation events occur:

- a) the Registered Interest Deadline; and
- b) when an athlete granted a Competition Start deregisters their interest and there are Registered Interest Athletes not granted a Competition Start; and
- c) when an athlete (re)registers their interest in a competition with available quota, where such allocation is subject to:

- d) IFSC deadlines for athlete competition registration and/or registration changes; and
- e) for allocation less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the relevant IFSC deadline, USA Climbing reasonable effort expectations; and
- f) for allocation less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the relevant IFSC deadline and for a competition with multiple disciplines, USA Climbing discretion to restrict the Competition Start grant to be to an athlete already having a Competition Start to another Discipline at that Competition, where the athlete must meet all of the requirements for that quota (Discipline and Competition); however, in the event there are no competitors eligible to receive such Competition Starts, the requirements rule may be relaxed such that ranking requirement is 50% more inclusive, rounded down. For example, any top five (5) requirement may be relaxed to top seven (7); any top ten (10) requirement may be relaxed to top fifteen (15); any top twenty (20) requirement may be relaxed to top thirty (30); etc.

For the avoidance of doubt:

Rule 1.5.4(b)(v) sets forth that only select (re)registrations of interest will be considered during a provisional period; and

If, during a provisional period (Rule 1.5.4(b)), a subsequent Competition Start allocation initiation event occurs (e.g., another athlete granted a Competition Start deregisters their interest), then a new Competition Start allocation process begins for the newly-available quota, but the quota allocated by the currently-provisional process is not affected.

1.5.4 Regarding the allocation procedure for Competition Starts,

when allocating available USA Climbing quota for an International Competition:

- a) USA Climbing shall publish provisional Competition Starts to eligible athletes who have registered interest in each Discipline at the Competition, in an order and number based on the quota available to USA Climbing and the relevant Competition Start order outlined in this Team Selection Procedures document,
  - i) first considering only NT Registered Interest Athletes and NDT (Normal) Registered Interest Athletes; and
  - ii) then (only if quota remains) considering NDT (Late) Registered Interest Athletes, prioritized strictly by the date/time order of their most recent (re)registration of interest (earliest date/time having highest priority); and
- b) during the forty-eight (48) hours after publication (“provisional period”), Competition Starts will be re-evaluated if:
  - i) any of the athletes granted a provisional Competition Start decline (i.e., deregister their interest); or
  - ii) for the Elite Series, any National Team member reregisters their interest; or

iii) any provisional Competition Start is found to be erroneous (including without limitation those published due to clerical errors),

in which case, the provisional Competition Starts will be newly determined by and published by USA Climbing, and:

- iv) no new provisional forty-eight (48) hour period begins; and
- v) no new Registered Interest Athlete, other than set forth in 1.5.4(b)(ii), is considered; and
- c) at a time forty-eight (48) hours after publishing provisional Competition Starts, said provisional Competition Starts (as updated and/or corrected, if applicable) shall become Competition Starts and USA Climbing will register the invited athletes for the International Competition; and
- d) if the provisional period begins less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Competition's relevant registration deadline, the provisional period shall be twelve (12) hours, unless provisional period begins less than twelve (12) hours prior to the Competition's relevant registration deadline, in which case the provisional period a nominally short time (e.g., 30 minutes) or may be eliminated.

For the avoidance of doubt, National Team members (in the Elite Series) have priority that includes consideration if they reregister interest during the provisional period. Once the provisional period ends, Competition Starts are not revoked without Team Selection Discretion.

1.5.5 Competition Starts extended by USA Climbing are considered accepted unless an athlete declines or deregisters their interest.

- a) Declining a Competition Start or withdrawing from the competition (including without limitation becoming no longer available, eligible, or interested in attending the Competition) is to be considered the same as deregistering interest.
- b) If an athlete who received a Competition Start to a given Competition deregisters their interest, the Competition Start is retracted, and USA Climbing will attempt to deregister the competitor from the International Competition.

1.5.6 For the purposes of facilitating expedient registration of an athlete for the international competition, USA climbing may require that an athlete have particular credentials and/or documentation (e.g., a valid US passport) in order to register their interest in a Competition.

1.5.7 For each International Competition (Competition) for which USA Climbing has an allocated quota, USA Climbing shall publish, on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website,

- a) the date(s) and location(s) of the Competition; and
- b) the Discipline(s) that the Competition includes; and
- c) the list, for each Discipline at the Competition, of athletes eligible to register their interest for a Competition Start in that Discipline at the Competition; and
- d) the method(s) for registering interest; and
- e) the credentials and/or documentation required in order to register interest.
- f) the Registered Interest Deadline; and
- g) the Athlete Swap End Date; and

By way of example, USA Climbing may publish a table as follows:

Date Location	Discipline Eligible Athlete List	Registered Interest Deadline (11:59pm MT)	Athlete Swap End Date (11:59pm MT)	Required Credentials /Documentation	Current Interest Report
4/15 Meiringen	Boulder ( <a href="#">eligibility list</a> )	4/1	4/5	Valid US Passport	<a href="#">Link</a>
5/21 SLC	Boulder ( <a href="#">eligibility list</a> )	4/22	5/4	None	<a href="#">Link</a>



- 1.5.8 Subject to Team Selection Discretion, USA Climbing may alter the rules in Section 1.5, including deadlines and procedures.

## 1.6 **General - USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion**

- 1.6.1 USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion provides the authority to waive or amend rules in this document, subject to the following:

- a) The USA Climbing High Performance team (or equivalent) or USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee must submit a written proposal to the USA Climbing Team Selection Committee outlining:
  - i) the requested discretion; and
  - ii) the justification for the discretion, based, in part, on performance at recent USA Climbing, IFSC, or NACS competitions; and
  - iii) any precedents relevant to the discretion; and
  - iv) the anticipated impact of such discretion.
- b) The proposal should be communicated to all affected athletes in a timely manner.
- c) The USA Climbing Team Selection Committee and the USA Climbing CEO must both approve the proposal for the discretion to be granted.
- d) The USA Climbing Board of Directors must be informed within fourteen (14) days of any exercise of discretion, by way of submission of the proposal and the Team Selection Committee recommendation/approval to the board.

- 1.6.2 For each position set forth in the Team Selection Committee charter that is either not filled or where the individual has recused themselves due to a conflict of interest, that Team Selection Committee voting position for Rule 1.6.1 purposes is filled in the following order, as such individuals are available:

- a) For an athlete position on the Team Selection Committee:
  - i) USOPC AAC Representative alternate.
  - ii) USA Climbing AAC Chair.
  - iii) A member of the USA Climbing AAC.
- b) For a non-athlete position on the Team Selection Committee:
  - i) A member of the USA Climbing Board of Directors.

Positions should be filled with attention paid to avoid conflicts of interest.

## 2 Elite: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

### 2.1 Elite: National Team Ranking Points

- 2.1.1 National Team Ranking Points, for each Discipline, are the sum of:
- a) the National Championship (NCH) competition National Team Ranking points; and
  - b) the National Team Trials (NTT) competition National Team Ranking points; and
  - c) National Team Ranking Bonus points.
- 2.1.2 National Team Ranking points expire at the start of the following National Championship.
- 2.1.3 The rankings used to determine National Team Ranking points are among only age-eligible US citizen (ICE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.

Where General Rank is indicated, the competition overall ranking is used

Where Time Rank is indicated, Resolved Time Rank (Rule 1.4.4) is used.

(General Rank and Time Rank are defined in the USA Climbing Rulebook.)

Lead National Team Ranking points		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Lead competition	General Rank	NCH column in 2.1.4
+ NTT Lead competition	General Rank	NTT column in 2.1.4
+ Lead Bonus points	CUWR	In 2.1.5
= TOTAL points		

Table 2-1 National Team Ranking Points – Lead

Boulder National Team Ranking points		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Boulder competition	General Rank	NCH column in 2.1.4
+ NTT Boulder competition	General Rank	NTT column in 2.1.4
+ Boulder Bonus points	CUWR	In 2.1.5
= TOTAL points		

Table 2-2 National Team Ranking Points – Boulder

Speed National Team Ranking points		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Speed competition	Time Rank	NCH column in 2.1.4
+ NTT Speed competition	Time Rank	NTT column in 2.1.4
+ Speed Bonus points	CUWR	In 2.1.5
= TOTAL points		

Table 2-3 National Team Ranking Points – Speed

2.1.4 The following table is used to determine National Team Ranking points. (The rank used is as set out in the tables in Rule 2.1.3.)

<b>National Team Ranking Points</b>											
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>
1	1000	1200	21	145	174	41	14	16	61	4	4
2	805	966	22	130	156	42	13	15	62	4	4
3	690	828	23	120	144	43	12	14	63	4	4
4	610	732	24	105	126	44	11	13	64	3	3
5	545	654	25	95	114	45	11	13	65	3	3
6	495	594	26	84	100	46	10	12	66	3	3
7	455	546	27	73	87	47	9	10	67	3	3
8	415	498	28	63	75	48	9	10	68	3	3
9	380	456	29	56	67	49	8	9	69	2	2
10	350	420	30	48	57	50	8	9	70	2	2
11	325	390	31	42	50	51	7	8	71	2	2
12	300	360	32	37	44	52	7	8	72	2	2
13	280	336	33	33	39	53	7	8	73	2	2
14	260	312	34	30	36	54	6	7	74	2	2
15	240	288	35	27	32	55	6	7	75	1	1
16	220	264	36	24	28	56	6	7	76	1	1
17	205	246	37	21	25	57	5	6	77	1	1
18	185	222	38	19	22	58	5	6	78	1	1
19	170	204	39	17	20	59	5	6	79	1	1
20	155	186	40	15	18	60	4	4	80	1	1

Table 2-4 National Team Ranking Points – Rank Points

2.1.5 National Team Ranking Bonus points are as follows:

- a) At the conclusion of the calendar year, IFSC CUWR Top-40 National Team Ranking Bonus points are awarded in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, where their points are determined from their CUWR top-40 rank in the Discipline at the end of the year using the table below:

<b>National Team Ranking Bonus – CUWR Top-40</b>							
<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>
1	1000	11	392	21	230	31	137
2	824	12	370	22	217	32	133
3	721	13	352	23	208	33	129
4	649	14	334	24	194	34	127
5	590	15	316	25	185	35	124
6	545	16	298	26	175	36	121
7	509	17	284	27	165	37	118
8	473	18	266	28	156	38	117
9	442	19	253	29	150	39	115
10	415	20	239	30	143	40	113

Table 2-5 National Team Ranking Points – Bonus Points – CUWR Top-40

## 2.2 Elite: National Team & National Development Team Selection

Notes: Because the IFSC quota allocated to the US may be fewer than the number of National Team members, not all National Team members are guaranteed a Competition Start.

The National Team may include Preselected plus the top “N” from National Team Rankings (NTR).

2.2.1 The National Teams and National Development Teams shall be composed at the conclusion of the National Team Trials, in the order of criteria listed in each table, and within each criterion, athletes within that set are ordered by the ranking used in the criterion (e.g., CUWR or NTR), unless otherwise specified.

a) 2024: In each of the **Lead** and **Boulder** Disciplines:

Type		Criterion
National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible (i.e., have a “bye” by being CUWR top-10) in the Discipline.
		Olympic Team members in Boulder & Lead
	OQS-selected	Prior to the conclusion of the OQS: those qualified and eligible for the OQS in Boulder & Lead
	NTR Selected	The top two (2) ranked athletes in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected at the time that the OQS eligibility is finalized.
National Development Team	OQS-selected	After the conclusion of the OQS: those who were qualified and eligible for the OQS in Boulder & Lead and no longer meeting the requirements of National Team.
	NTR Selected	Athletes ranked third (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) through tenth (10 <sup>th</sup> ) in the Discipline National Team Ranking and not on the National Team.

Table 2-6 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Lead and Boulder

b) 2024: In the **Speed** Discipline:

Type		Criterion
National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible (i.e., have a “bye” by being CUWR top-10) in the Speed Discipline.
		Olympic Team members in Speed
	OQS-selected	Prior to the conclusion of the OQS: those qualified and eligible for the OQS in Speed
	NTR Selected	The top two (2) ranked athletes in the Speed National Team Ranking who have achieved the NT Benchmark time (see Rule 2.4), among those not Preselected at the time that the OQS eligibility is finalized.
National Development Team	OQS-selected	After the conclusion of the OQS: those who were qualified and eligible for the OQS in Speed and no longer meeting the requirements of National Team.
	NTR Selected	Athletes not on the National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline National Team Ranking.

Table 2-7 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Speed

c) 2024: In the **Boulder & Lead** Discipline, there will be no National Team.

Type		Criterion
<b>National Team</b>	Preselected	[n/a]
		[n/a]
		[n/a]
	NTR Selected	[n/a]
<b>National Development Team</b>	NTR Selected	[n/a]

Table 2-8 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Boulder & Lead

d) 2025: In each of the **Lead, Boulder, and Speed** Disciplines:

Type		Criterion
<b>National Team</b>	<b>Preselected</b>	2024 Olympic Team members in the Discipline. (Boulder & Lead Olympic Team members are Preselected in both Lead and Boulder.)
		Athletes in the top ten (10) rank of the CUWR in the Discipline at the conclusion of the prior year.
	<b>NTR Selected</b>	Athletes ranked in the top two (2) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected.
Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected, ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).		
<b>National Development Team</b>	<b>NTR Selected</b>	Athletes not on the National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline National Team Ranking.

Table 2-9 2025 National Team and National Development Team – Lead, Boulder, and Speed

- 2.2.2 Only for World Cups where IFSC awards the US additional host quota (typically a US-hosted World Cup), the National Development Teams in Rule 2.2.1 shall be athletes ranked in the top sixteen (16) in the Discipline National Team Ranking instead of the top ten (10).
- 2.2.3 Subject to Team Selection Discretion, USA Climbing may declare additional athletes to be members of the National Development Team.

## 2.3 Elite: Competition Starts

- 2.3.1 For the purposes of this document, Elite Competition Starts are those for Elite Competitions which consist of:
- a) IFSC World Cups and IFSC World Championship; and
  - b) Pan American Games and associated direct qualification competitions for the Pan American Games; and
  - c) the “Olympic Qualification Series”.
- 2.3.2 In order to receive a Competition Start in the Speed Discipline, an athlete:
- a) must be Speed National Team Preselected; or
  - b) must have achieved a CS Benchmark time (see Rule 2.4).
- 2.3.3 For each competition, the first one (1) Competition Start is subject to Team Selection Discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, Team Selection Discretion may extend the Competition Start to a member of the relevant National Development Team or National Team.
- 2.3.4 Elite Competition Starts in the Speed Discipline shall be extended, up to the US quota and subject to Rules 2.3.2 and 2.3.3, to those not IFSC Name-Eligible in Speed as follows:
- a) to members of the Speed National Team, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - b) to the extent that any quota remains, to the Speed National Development Team, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - c) to the extent that any quota remains, to US Citizen (ICE) athletes who have achieved the Competition Start minimum benchmark time, where such athletes are ordered:
    - i) first, those with a National Team Ranking in Speed, ordered by such ranking; and
    - ii) second, the remaining athletes, ordered by their fastest achieved benchmark time (see Rule 2.4) (fastest ordered first).
- 2.3.5 Elite Competition Starts in Lead and Boulder shall be extended, up to the US quota and subject to Rule 2.3.3, as follows:
- a) to members of the National Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - b) to the extent that any quota remains, to the National Development Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team.

## 2.4 Elite: Speed Benchmarks

2.4.1 USA Climbing Team Selection Speed Benchmark times for the following year are established at the conclusion of the calendar year, using the times achieved that year in the Speed Qualification rounds of IFSC World Cups and, if held that year, the IFSC World Championship. For example, the 2024 Speed Benchmark times are determined using the results of select 2023 IFSC Speed events.

As set forth in 2.4.2:

- The benchmark for an athlete to be on the National Team (the NT Benchmark) is calculated from the IFSC WC & WCH Qualification rounds in the prior year. The NT Benchmark is the median time from all relevant Qualification rounds, effectively a time that would likely place the athlete in the top 50% of an IFSC qualification round.
- The benchmark for an athlete to get a Competition Start (the CS Benchmark) is 7% slower than the NT Benchmark.
- The benchmark for an athlete to qualify for the National Team Trials (the NTT Benchmark) is 40% slower than the NT Benchmark.

The Speed Benchmark times are published on the National Team page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

2.4.2 The Speed Benchmark times are to be established as follows:

a) The National Team Benchmark (NT Benchmark) is determined at the conclusion of the IFSC season by:

- i) first determining the set of valid fastest Qualification round times for each competitor ranked in that round at each World Cup (and where relevant, the World Championship) in that calendar year; and
- ii) then determining the median time of that set.

A given IFSC athlete will have one “fastest time” in the set for each relevant competition in which they have a valid Qualification round time and are ranked in that round. (i.e. do not have a False Start in that round.)

Note that the 2024 NT Benchmark was determined using the previously published methodology as noted below which produces the same NT benchmark time for the women’s category and a NT Benchmark that is 0.01 second slower for the men’s category.

iii) for each 2023 World Cup (and the 2023 World Championship):

- A) for each competitor with a valid Qualification round time (without a False Start), determining that competitor’s fastest valid Qualification round time; and
- B) determining the competition median value of those fastest Qualification round times in the competition; and then

iv) determining the median value among those competition median values.

b) The Competition Start Benchmark (CS Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.07 (an increase of 7%).

c) The NTT Eligibility Benchmark (NTT Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.40 (an increase of 40%).

d) Each Speed Benchmark calculation (median of Qualification times, NT benchmark, CS benchmark, NTT benchmark) is rounded up to two (2) decimal digits (1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second) before being presented or used further. (e.g., 8.251 rounds up to 8.26)

For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete must achieve benchmark times using their timing-system-displayed time without rounding. (e.g., a race time of 6.201 does not meet a 6.20 benchmark time.)

2.4.3 For a given NTT and IFSC competition year, an athlete may achieve a benchmark time as follows:

- a) in any of the following Speed competitions in that calendar year or in the immediately prior calendar year:
  - i) USA Climbing National competitions.
  - ii) North American Cup Series competitions.
  - iii) IFSC-sanctioned world-level competitions (e.g., World Cups, World Championship (any Series), Olympics and Olympic qualification competitions).
  - iv) An event (competition or speed trial) designated prior to the event by USA Climbing by way of Team Selection Discretion for NT, CS, and/or NTT Benchmark purposes. Note that a given competition or speed trial may be designated only for NTT, and not CS or NT, Benchmark purposes.

For example, for the 2024 NTT and 2024 IFSC season, only times achieved at the above relevant competitions on or after January 1, 2023 are considered.

For the avoidance of doubt, race times that do not meet the timeframe or event requirements above are not considered when evaluating benchmark times for any purpose defined in this document.

- b) for NTT Benchmark only, in a manner defined in an NTT Benchmark exception policy published by and at the discretion of USA Climbing.



### 3 Elite: National Championship: Eligibility, Format, and Ranking Points

#### 3.1 Elite: NCH Age Requirement

3.1.1 To be age-eligible for the National Championship, a competitor must be seventeen (17) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the first World Cup immediately following the National Championship.

For the avoidance of doubt, if the National Championship is late in the calendar year, a competitor who is sixteen (16) years of age on December 31st of the year of the National Championship will not have been eligible for other Elite Series events that year (e.g., North American Cup Series), though is age-eligible and may still achieve eligibility for the National Championship via exceptional performance at the Youth National Championship that year.

#### 3.2 Elite: NCH Eligibility

3.2.1 NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (in each Category and for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines) for a competitor shall be the sum of the points from the best two (2) eligible competitions since the day before the preceding National Championship, where:

- a) the best two (2) competitions are those that provide the competitor with the greatest number of points; and
- b) eligible competitions are listed in the table below, indicating which citizens are eligible for ranking points and the method used to rank the competitors in the Discipline for purposes of determining their NCH Eligibility Ranking points using the table in Rule 3.2.2; and
- c) non-US citizens (NTI) are awarded NCH Eligibility Ranking points only where they achieve a General Rank in the top-20 at a North American Cup Series competition; and
- d)

Competition	Citizen	Rank used for Determination of Ranking Points Determined using Rank relative to:
<b>USA Climbing National Championship (prior year)</b>	US only	all competitors
<b>USA Climbing National Team Trials (prior year)</b>	US only	all competitors
<b>IFSC World Cup</b>	US only	all competitors
<b>IFSC World Championship</b>	US only	all competitors
<b>Pan-American Championships</b>	US only	all competitors
<b>North American Cup Series</b>	any (see (c))	all competitors

Table 3-1 NCH Eligibility – Competitions Where Ranking Points Are Awarded

For example, a competitor's NCH Eligibility Ranking Points total could be from:

- the NCH and a NACS, or
- the NTT and a WC; or
- two WCs; etc.

3.2.2 The following table used to determine NCH Eligibility Ranking points using the following Elite competitions; the table is NOT used for National Team Ranking points. For the National Team Ranking points table, see Rule 2.1.4.

<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)</b>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>WCH</b>	<b>NACS</b>	<b>PACH</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>1</b>	1000	1200	2500	3500	500	500	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	805	966	2012	2817	402	402	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	690	828	1725	2415	345	345	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	610	732	1525	2135	305	305	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	545	654	1362	1907	272	272	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	495	594	1237	1732	247	247	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	455	546	1137	1592	227	227	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	415	498	1037	1452	207	207	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	380	456	950	1330	190	190	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	350	420	875	1225	175	175	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	325	390	812	1137	162	162	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	300	360	750	1050	150	150	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	280	336	700	980	140	140	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	260	312	650	910	130	130	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	240	288	600	840	120	120	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	220	264	550	770	110	110	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	205	246	512	717	102	102	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	185	222	462	647	92	92	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	170	204	425	595	85	85	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	155	186	387	542	77	77	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	145	174	362	507	72	72	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	130	156	325	455	65	65	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	120	144	300	420	60	60	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	105	126	262	367	52	52	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	95	114	237	332	47	47	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	84	100	210	294	42	42	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	73	87	182	255	36	36	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	63	75	157	220	31	31	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	56	67	140	196	28	28	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	48	57	120	168	24	24	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>	42	50	105	147	21	21	<b>31</b>
<b>32</b>	37	44	92	129	18	18	<b>32</b>

<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)</b>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>WCH</b>	<b>NACS</b>	<b>PACH</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>33</b>	33	39	82	115	16	16	<b>33</b>
<b>34</b>	30	36	75	105	15	15	<b>34</b>
<b>35</b>	27	32	67	94	13	13	<b>35</b>
<b>36</b>	24	28	60	84	12	12	<b>36</b>
<b>37</b>	21	25	52	73	10	10	<b>37</b>
<b>38</b>	19	22	47	66	9	9	<b>38</b>
<b>39</b>	17	20	42	59	8	8	<b>39</b>
<b>40</b>	15	18	37	52	7	7	<b>40</b>
<b>41</b>	14	16	35	49	7	7	<b>41</b>
<b>42</b>	13	15	32	45	6	6	<b>42</b>
<b>43</b>	12	14	30	42	6	6	<b>43</b>
<b>44</b>	11	13	27	38	5	5	<b>44</b>
<b>45</b>	11	13	27	38	5	5	<b>45</b>
<b>46</b>	10	12	25	35	5	5	<b>46</b>
<b>47</b>	9	10	22	31	4	4	<b>47</b>
<b>48</b>	9	10	22	31	4	4	<b>48</b>
<b>49</b>	8	9	20	28	4	4	<b>49</b>
<b>50</b>	8	9	20	28	4	4	<b>50</b>
<b>51</b>	7	8	17	24	3	3	<b>51</b>
<b>52</b>	7	8	17	24	3	3	<b>52</b>
<b>53</b>	7	8	17	24	3	3	<b>53</b>
<b>54</b>	6	7	15	21	3	3	<b>54</b>
<b>55</b>	6	7	15	21	3	3	<b>55</b>
<b>56</b>	6	7	15	21	3	3	<b>56</b>
<b>57</b>	5	6	12	17	2	2	<b>57</b>
<b>58</b>	5	6	12	17	2	2	<b>58</b>
<b>59</b>	5	6	12	17	2	2	<b>59</b>
<b>60</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>60</b>
<b>61</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>61</b>
<b>62</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>62</b>
<b>63</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>63</b>
<b>64</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>64</b>
<b>65</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>65</b>
<b>66</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>66</b>

<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking Points</b> <i>(not for National Team Ranking use)</i>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>WCH</b>	<b>NACS</b>	<b>PACH</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>67</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>67</b>
<b>68</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>68</b>
<b>69</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>69</b>
<b>70</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>70</b>
<b>71</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>71</b>
<b>72</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>72</b>
<b>73</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>73</b>
<b>74</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>74</b>
<b>75</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>75</b>
<b>76</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>76</b>
<b>77</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>77</b>
<b>78</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>78</b>
<b>79</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>79</b>
<b>80</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>80</b>

Table 3-2 NCH Eligibility – Ranking Points

3.2.3 The competitor Qualification criteria for NCH eligibility for US citizens (ICE) for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines are as follows, where all Discipline criteria apply:

- first, as a Discipline criterion only to that Discipline’s NCH eligibility; and
- then, as a Boulder & Lead criterion to both Lead NCH and Boulder NCH eligibility,

and the Seeding Order (i.e., used for starting lists in Boulder Qualification Round) is by the order of the criteria below:

Set of Eligible Athletes (Order Within the Set)	NCH Discipline Eligible	NCH B&L Cross Eligible	Notes
<b>Team Preselected (Rank within Team)</b>	All	All	(a)
<b>Past Olympian</b>	All	none (e)	(a) (e)
<b>Past World Cup or World Championship Finalist</b>	All	none (e)	(a) (e)
<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking (NCH Eligibility Rank)</b>	Top-100	Top-25	(b)(c)
<b>Recent National Team Member (Prior National Team Rank)</b>	All	All	(a)
<b>Youth National Team Ranking (Youth National Team Rank)</b>	Top-6	Top-3	(a) (d)
<b>Collegiate National Team Ranking (Collegiate National Team Rank)</b>	Top-6	Top-3	(a) (d)

Table 3-3 NCH Eligibility – Criteria

*With the expected return to an individual discipline focus, the NCH eligibility will focus more on broad inclusion for the discipline, but still retain some B&L cross-eligibility for highly ranked competitors, recognizing the travel and opportunity issues involved in attending multiple NACS events.*

Notes, where listed above:

- Does not apply to non-US citizens (NTI).
- USA Climbing has the discretion to increase (relax) the required eligibility rank within the NCH Eligibility Ranking (to include more than what is specified in the above table) by publishing that new requirement at least ten (10) days prior to the National Championship competition.
- An athlete who qualified for the National Team or National Development Team the prior year will have enough NCH Eligibility Ranking points to qualify for the next year’s NCH even if they do not accumulate any additional points between the NTT and the following season’s NCH.
- Eligibility is based on Youth (or as relevant, Collegiate) National Team Ranking points solely from the Youth (or as relevant, Collegiate) National Championships in the last 15 months, based on ranking among \*all\* US citizen (ICE) competitors, and NTE competitors in Youth, in the category.  
 Note: if a top-N competitor is otherwise qualified for NCH or not age-eligible for the upcoming NCH, their top-N eligibility does not pass to any other competitor.
- Past Olympian and Past World Cup or World Championship Finalist eligibility is granted only for the Discipline(s) from that past competition. Note, however, that an Olympian from an Olympics that combined three Disciplines is eligible for the NCH in all three Disciplines.

3.2.4 The competitor Qualification requirements for NCH eligibility in this document are in addition to further requirements (e.g., USA Climbing membership) set forth in the USA Climbing Rulebook.

3.2.5 For the National Championship, any competitor:

- a) granted NCH B&L Cross Eligibility for Lead by Rule 3.2.3 and not granted eligibility for Boulder that Rule is nonetheless granted eligibility for Boulder and such a competitor is seeded last in Boulder; and
- b) granted NCH B&L Cross Eligibility for Boulder by Rule 3.2.3 and not granted eligibility for Lead by that Rule is nonetheless granted eligibility for Lead and such a competitor is seeded last in Lead.

### **3.3 Elite: NCH Competition Format**

3.3.1 Where the USA Climbing Rulebook uses competition seeding for the Qualification round Start Order, the seeding is by way of Section 3.2 above.

In the Speed Discipline non-US citizens (NTI) are not eligible to advance to the Final round. (for Lead and Boulder non-US citizen (NTI) advancement is outlined in the USA Climbing Rulebook.)

## 4 Elite: National Team Trials: Eligibility, Format, and Ranking Points

### 4.1 Elite: NTT Age Requirement

- 4.1.1 To be age-eligible for the National Team Trials, a competitor must have been age-eligible for the immediately prior National Championship.

### 4.2 Elite: NTT Eligibility

- 4.2.1 To be eligible for the National Team Trials in the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, a competitor must be a US citizen (ICE) and:
- a) be designated USA Climbing Team Preselected in the Discipline; or
  - b) be eligible for Bonus Points, in the Discipline, as set forth in Rule 2.1.5; or
  - c) at the National Championship, have achieved a top-40 NCH ranking in the Discipline among US citizens (ICE) excluding athletes granted eligibility by (a) or (b) above.

Summary:

<b>NTT Lead or Boulder eligible if, in the Discipline:</b>	
	USA Climbing Team Preselected in
or	Bonus Points eligible
or	NCH top-40

Table 4-1 NTT Eligibility – Lead and Boulder

- 4.2.2 To be eligible for the National Team Trials in Speed, a competitor must be a US citizen (ICE) and:

- a) be designated USA Climbing Team Preselected in the Discipline; or
- b) be eligible for Bonus Points, in Speed, as set forth in Rule 2.1.5; or
- c) have achieved:
  - i) a top-60 competition rank in Speed at the National Championship among US citizen (ICE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline and not eligible for National Team Ranking Bonus; and
  - ii) an NTT Benchmark time (see Rule 2.4).

Summary:

<b>NTT Speed eligible if, in Speed:</b>	
	USA Climbing Team Preselected
or	Bonus Points eligible
or	NCH top-60 and achieved National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time

Table 4-2 NTT Eligibility – Speed Summary

### 4.3 Elite: NTT Competition Format

- 4.3.1 The competitor seeding order for the Boulder National Team Trials competition shall be:
- first seeded are Boulder Team Preselected in order of rank in the team; and
  - next seeded are all others in order of Boulder ranking at the National Championship.
- 4.3.2 For the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, for each of the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, the Rulebook quota for the round shall be filled with the top ranked competitors who are not Team Preselected in the Discipline, and where advancement shall also be granted to Team Preselected competitors who are ranked the same or better than the competitors not Team Preselected who are advancing.

Consider the following example or results from the Lead Semi-Final round, where the standard quota for the Final round is 8:

Semi-Final Ranking	Competitor	Advance to Finals
1	Athlete A	Yes
2	Athlete B	Yes
3	Athlete C	Yes
4	Athlete D	Yes
5	Athlete E (*Team Preselected)	Yes
6	Athlete F	Yes
7	Athlete G	Yes
8	Athlete H	Yes
9 (tie)	Athlete I	Yes
9 (tie)	Athlete J (*Team Preselected)	Yes
11	Athlete K	No

Table 4-3 NTT Advancement – Example

- 4.3.3 For the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, the respective 2025 NTT competition adheres to the 2025 USA Climbing NTT Rules Addendum, published by USA Climbing.
- 4.3.4 Speed Team Preselected are eligible for the NTT Speed competition Knockout Final round, subject to their Qualification round results.



## 5 Youth: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

### 5.1 Youth: National Team Ranking Points

- 5.1.1 For each Youth National Team, the relevant Youth National Team Ranking (YNTR) is the Youth National Championship competition ranking in the Discipline among only US citizens (ICE) and National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.

### 5.2 Youth: National Teams & National Development Team Selection

- 5.2.1 The Youth National Team and National Development Team in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be composed at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by YNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
<b>Youth National Team</b>	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible (i.e., typically Youth World Champion) in the Discipline.
	YNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship. (see 5.2.1(a) below.)
<b>Youth National Development Team</b>	YNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Youth National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship. (see 5.2.1(b) below.)

Table 5-1 Youth National Team and National Development Team

- a) The YNTR Selected for the Youth National Team shall include those athletes who are:
- i) the top five (5) ranked ICE athletes in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking (among only those not Preselected); and
  - ii) NTE athletes ranked the same or better than those five (5) ICE athletes.
- b) The YNTR Selected for the Youth National Development Team shall include those athletes not on the Youth National team who are:
- i) the next top five (5) ranked ICE athletes in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking (among only those not Preselected); and
  - ii) NTE athletes ranked the same or better than those five (5) ICE athletes.

For example, for each NTE athlete that is YNTR Selected for Youth National Team, the number of Youth National Team members will increase by one (1) – similarly, for each NTE athlete that is YNTR Selected for the Youth National Development Team, the number of Youth National Development Team members will increase by one (1).

### 5.3 Youth: Competition Starts: IFSC Youth World Championships and Youth Pan American Championships

- 5.3.1 For IFSC Youth World Championships or Youth Pan American Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended, up to the US quota, to those not IFSC Name-Eligible in the Discipline as follows:
- a) first, to the relevant Youth National Team, in order of their team rank; then
  - b) to the extent that any quota remains, to the relevant Youth National Development Team, in order of their National Development Team rank.

## 6 Collegiate: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

### 6.1 Collegiate: National Team Ranking Points

- 6.1.1 For each Collegiate National Team, the relevant Collegiate National Team Ranking (CNTR) is the Collegiate National Championship competition ranking in the Discipline among only US citizens (ICE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.

### 6.2 Collegiate: National Teams & National Development Team Selection

- 6.2.1 The Collegiate National Team and National Development Team in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be composed at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by CNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
<b>Collegiate National Team</b>	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible (i.e., typically Collegiate World Champion) in the Discipline.
	CNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship.
<b>Collegiate National Development Team</b>	CNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Collegiate National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship.

Table 6-1 Collegiate National Team and National Development Team

### 6.3 Collegiate: Competition Starts: World University Championships

- 6.3.1 For World University Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended, up to the US quota, to those not IFSC Name-Eligible in the Discipline as follows:
- first, to the relevant Collegiate National Team, in order of their team rank; then
  - to the extent that any quota remains, to the relevant Collegiate National Development Team, in order of their National Development Team rank.

## 7 Paraclimbing: Teams and Competition Starts

### 7.1 Paraclimbing: National Team Ranking Points

- 7.1.1 For each Paraclimbing National Team, the relevant Paraclimbing National Team Ranking is the Paraclimbing National Championship competition ranking in the Discipline among only US citizens (ICE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.

### 7.2 Paraclimbing: National Teams & National Development Team

- 7.2.1 The US Paraclimbing National Team, in each IFSC category, shall be composed at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by PNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
<b>Paraclimbing National Team</b>	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible in the Category that they still qualify for.
		If IFSC does not designate Name-Eligible athletes in Paraclimbing, the highest one (1) ranked competitor in the IFSC Paraclimbing World Ranking in the Category (see 7.2.1(b)) among those US citizen (ICE) athletes who were ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> in a Paraclimbing World Cup or ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> through 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the Paraclimbing World Championships, that Category and still qualify in that Category.
	PNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top three (3) in the Category's Paraclimbing National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing National Championship.
<b>Paraclimbing National Development Team</b>	PNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Paraclimbing National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Category's Paraclimbing National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing National Championship.

Table 7-1 Paraclimbing National Team and National Development Team

- a) In the event of Category changes and/or Category merging, Team Selection Discretion may provide Preselected status based on achievement in a different Category.
- b) In the event that the IFSC does not maintain a Paraclimbing World Ranking in the Category, USA Climbing shall rank Preselected-eligible US citizen (ICE) athletes in the Category in a manner that follows the construction and points of the IFSC CUWR for a Discipline, using each athlete's IFSC World Championship result and their best one (1) IFSC World Cup result.

For the avoidance of doubt, the US Paraclimbing National Team composition shall be based on the IFSC categories should they differ from those used at USA Climbing competitions.

### **7.3 Paraclimbing: Competition Starts: Paraclimbing World Cups and Paraclimbing World Championships**

- 7.3.1 While categories for Paraclimbing athletes in USA Climbing competitions may be different from IFSC categories (see the USA Climbing Rulebook for information on USA Climbing Paraclimbing categories), the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championship Competition Starts shall be based on the IFSC categories.
- 7.3.2 Competition Starts to compete at the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships may be extended to:
- a) members of the US Paraclimbing National Team, then US Paraclimbing National Development Team, up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota; and
  - b) in addition to (a), where the IFSC grants byes to Champion status competitors to compete in the Paraclimbing World Championships, US citizens (ICE) that hold such status may also be extended a Competition Start.
- 7.3.3 All categories of visually impaired (B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller, who may call out the route for them in accordance with IFSC Rules. For IFSC World Cup or World Championship competitions, each US Paraclimbing National Team visually impaired competitor is required to provide their own personal caller who is not competitor, is not shared with another competitor, and is not a team official. The competitor's caller must be identified as such in the visually impaired competitor's signed Athlete Agreement with USA Climbing, and the caller must also submit a signed Athlete Agreement. Such a competitor's caller shall then be considered a member of the US Paraclimbing National Team and shall then have access to all competitor-only areas, subject to the rules and/or policies of the competition. In the event either a visually impaired competitor does not provide a named caller or a visually impaired competitor's named caller is not at an IFSC competition, USA Climbing has Sport Discretion (see USA Climbing Rulebook) to make a reasonable attempt to provide a caller, or to not provide a caller.

Endnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> If an IFSC event's final round is held with an advancement quota larger than specified in the IFSC rules (e.g., in the case of cancelation of a round for weather reasons), then for the purposes of Past World Cup or World Championship Finalist means an athlete that finish with a general ranking as high as the rules-specified Quota. For example, if the last round of a Lead WC had 26 athletes, then only those who finish that round in the top-8 are considered "Finalists".